

## Common Household Hazardous Products:

### The House

- Adhesives
- Fluorescent lights (contain mercury)
- Hobby products (artist's paints, inks, glues, cements)
- Household cleaners (drain, toilet, oven and window cleaners; solvents; rug shampoos; spot removers; disinfectants; bleach and ammonia)
- Mercury thermometers and thermostats
- Personal-care products (nail polish removers, rubbing alcohol)
- Photographic chemicals
- Rechargeable batteries (nickel cadmium, nickel metal hydride)
- Remodeling products (glazing, caulking; carpet adhesives; linoleum pastes)
- Shoe polish

### The Garage

- Antifreeze
- Auto body fillers
- Wood preservatives
- Herbicides
- Gasoline and additives
- Lacquers, stains and varnishes
- Vehicle batteries
- Paint, paint thinners and paint removers
- Pesticides
- Solvents, degreasers
- Asphalt and roof tar
- Epoxy resins
- Used motor oil
- Wood preservatives



*Helping the residents of the Gallatin Valley protect, preserve and improve our surface water and ground water resources.*

## Gallatin Local Water Quality District

1709 W. College Street, Suite 104  
Bozeman, MT 59715

406-582-3148  
[www.gallatin.mt.gov/GLWQD](http://www.gallatin.mt.gov/GLWQD)

Updated 12/2/09

## Gallatin Local Water Quality District

# IDENTIFYING HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS



# What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Used or unwanted household chemicals are considered hazardous when they pose a threat to our environment and us. Many of these household products contain the same chemicals that are strictly regulated as industrial waste. Improper disposal of household hazardous waste can contaminate drinking water supplies.

Many communities hold household hazardous waste collection events or have permanent collection facilities where residents can safely drop-off their hazardous products for proper disposal.

This hazardous waste must be disposed of through specialized disposal facilities. This is expensive. For some chemicals, the disposal options are not the most environmentally friendly. Once household hazardous waste is collected and packaged for transport, it is taken to these regulated, specialized facilities where it may either be incinerated or buried in a landfill specially designed for hazardous chemicals.



Sorting household chemicals in preparation for proper disposal at a local household hazardous waste collection event.

## How do I Know if a Household Product is “Hazardous”?

**Most household hazardous wastes are hazardous because they are toxic, corrosive or flammable.**

**Toxic.** These are poisonous or can be harmful or fatal if swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin. Toxic wastes include:

- Antifreeze
- Wood preservatives
- Paint strippers
- Pesticides
- Motor oil
- Spot removers
- Latex paint containing mercury
- Latex and oil base paints

**Corrosive.** These are acidic or alkaline wastes that can burn or corrode other materials. They include:

- Drain cleaners
- Oven cleaners
- Toilet bowl cleaners
- Concrete cleaners
- Swimming pool acids
- Battery acids

**Flammable.** These are wastes that can easily catch fire. Flammable wastes include:

- Gasoline
- Aerosol containers
- Roofing tars
- Degreasing solvents
- Cleaning solvents
- Paint thinners

## READ THE LABEL!

The product label should contain wording that indicates the severity of the hazard. Check the product label for words like:

**Caution** - Indicates a **mild** hazard.

**Warning** - Indicates a **moderate** hazard.

**Danger** - Indicates an **extreme** hazard.

**Look** for these key words on the product label. They indicate the type of hazard:

flammable, combustible,  
volatile, explosive,  
contains petroleum distillates

contains acid, corrosive,  
causes burns to the skin,  
contains lye

poison  
harmful if swallowed  
toxic